



Montana Board of Crime Control

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State Tribal Relations Committee July 9-10, 2015 EXHIBIT 13

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July 9, 2015

Members of the State-Tribal Relations Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. I represent the Montana Board of Crime Control, Montana's criminal justice planning agency and statistical analysis center. The MBCC administers millions of dollars in federal grant funds each year to support crime prevention and victim's services across the state. We also collect all incident-based crime reporting data for local law enforcement agencies, publishing the annual Crime in Montana report found on our website or available in hard copy upon request.

- According to the 2010 Census, Native American people make up 6.3% of Montana's population.
- Native American youth accounted for 10% of the youth population.
- Native American youth also accounted for 16.1% of the juvenile arrests in 2012-13.
- Between 13-15% of youth in the juvenile justice system are Native American youth.
- In 2014 6% of the crime victims reported to the MBCC were Native American; two-thirds of the reported victims were female.

Why is this important to the State Tribal Relations Committee? For the coming year, the MBCC has several very exciting opportunities that we would like to bring to your attention and ask for your input and guidance.

The MBCC has been awarded a Vision 21: Linking System of Care cooperative agreement with the Office of Victims of Crime to examine the existing system of care available to children and their families. Our project coordinator, June Ellestad, is currently working to include Tribal communities in this project. We would very much like to hear from Tribal communities about the needs of Native American youth. It is our hope to reach out to Tribal communities, including Tribal leadership and caregivers, to learn more about the systems of care in each community.

We also work in the area of victims' services. Through the federal Office for Victims of Crime, the MBCC has received a significant increase in funds available to support domestic violence programs, victim advocates, crisis lines, and other services for

adult and child victims of crime. For many years, the MBCC has offered grant funds to support these types of programs but has received very few applications from rural, Tribal communities and reservations. Our staff is planning a series of trainings this fall for our current subgrantees, as well as a grant writing workshop. We want to be sure Tribal communities are represented and are aware of these opportunities.

Finally, Do the *Write Thing* is a youth violence prevention program for middle school students which invites them to write about youth violence, its causes, and what the individual will do to make a difference in his or her community. We have had several Do the *Write Thing* finalists from Browning and Poplar: Courtney Juneau (Browning, 2010); Josh Failing (Poplar, 2011); and Dylan Running Crane (Browning, 2012) have represented Montana as Do the *Write Thing* ambassadors at the National Recognition Ceremony in Washington, DC, an initiative of the National Coalition to Stop Violence. We want to make sure that Native American youth have the opportunity to participate in this program, and we appreciate your suggestions regarding the best way to provide information about the program to reservation schools, teachers and Native American youth.

We welcome your input and suggestions and are happy to provide updates to this committee on our outreach efforts.

Respectfully,

Julie Fischer
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